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Serial No. 09/373,568

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of January 18, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-5 and 10-19 without prejudice, amend claim 23, and add claims 24-25 as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

1 6. (Previously Presented) A communication system comprising
2 first and second beacon devices capable of wireless message
3 transmission and at least one portable device capable of receiving
4 such message transmissions, wherein said first beacon is arranged
5 to broadcast inquiry messages, wherein said at least one portable
6 device is arranged to detect said inquiry messages and reply with
7 an identifier for the portable device, wherein said first beacon
8 device is arranged to transmit a received identifier to said second
9 beacon, wherein said second beacon and portable device are
10 configured to perform a service interaction when triggered by the
11 second beacon receiving the portable device identifier, and wherein
12 said second beacon device is configured to remove a portable device
13 identifier from a list of identifiers for portable devices if a

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14 duplicate copy of said portable device identifier is received from
15 said first beacon device.

1 7. (Previously Presented) A communication system comprising
2 first and second beacon devices capable of wireless message
3 transmission and at least one portable device capable of receiving
4 such message transmissions, wherein said first beacon is arranged
5 to broadcast inquiry messages, wherein said at least one portable
6 device is arranged to detect said inquiry messages and reply with
7 an identifier for the portable device, wherein said first beacon
8 device is arranged to transmit a received identifier to said second
9 beacon, wherein said second beacon and portable device are
10 configured to perform a service interaction when triggered by the
11 second beacon receiving the portable device identifier, and wherein
12 said second beacon device is configured to remove a portable device
13 identifier from a list of identifiers for portable devices if said
14 interaction includes receipt of a predetermined message requesting
15 removal from said portable device.

1 8. (Previously Presented) A communication system comprising
2 first and second beacon devices capable of wireless message

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3 transmission and at least one portable device capable of receiving
4 such message transmissions, wherein said first beacon is arranged
5 to broadcast inquiry messages, wherein said at least one portable
6 device is arranged to detect said inquiry messages and reply with
7 an identifier for the portable device, wherein said first beacon
8 device is arranged to transmit a received identifier to said second
9 beacon, wherein said second beacon and portable device are
10 configured to perform a service interaction when triggered by the
11 second beacon receiving the portable device identifier, and wherein
12 each inquiry message is in the form of a plurality of data fields,
13 wherein the first beacon device is further arranged to add to each
14 inquiry message prior to transmission an additional data field, and
15 wherein the at least one portable device is arranged to receive the
16 transmitted inquiry messages and read data from said additional
17 data field.

1 9. (Original) A system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the
2 first beacon device is arranged to include an indication in one of
3 said predetermined data fields, said indication denoting the
4 presence of said additional data field.

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Claims 10-19 (Cancelled)

1 20. (Previously Presented) A method for enabling the user of a
2 portable communications device to perform a service interaction with
3 a beacon device in an environment containing at least first and
4 second beacon devices capable of wireless message, wherein a first
5 beacon broadcasts a series of inquiry messages, the users portable
6 device detects such inquiry messages and replies with an identifier
7 for the portable device, the first beacon device transmits a
8 received identifier to said second beacon, and the second beacon and
9 portable device perform said service interaction when triggered by
10 the second beacon receiving the portable device identifier, wherein
11 the second beacon device removes a portable device identifier from a
12 list of identifiers for portable devices if a duplicate copy of said
13 identifier is received from the first beacon device.

1 21. (Previously Presented) A method for enabling the user of a
2 portable communications device to perform a service interaction with
3 a beacon device in an environment containing at least first and
4 second beacon devices capable of wireless message, wherein a first
5 beacon broadcasts a series of inquiry messages, the users portable

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6 device detects such inquiry messages and replies with an identifier
7 for the portable device, the first beacon device transmits a
8 received identifier to said second beacon, and the second beacon and
9 portable device perform said service interaction when triggered by
10 the second beacon receiving the portable device identifier, wherein
11 the second beacon device removes a portable device identifier from a
12 list of identifiers for portable devices if said interaction
13 includes receipt of a predetermined message requesting removal from
14 said portable device.

1 22. (Previously Presented) A method for enabling the user of a
2 portable communications device to perform a service interaction with
3 a beacon device in an environment containing at least first and
4 second beacon devices capable of wireless message, wherein a first
5 beacon broadcasts a series of inquiry messages, the users portable
6 device detects such inquiry messages and replies with an identifier
7 for the portable device, the first beacon device transmits a
8 received identifier to said second beacon, and the second beacon and
9 portable device perform said service interaction when triggered by
10 the second beacon receiving the portable device identifier, wherein
11 said inquiry messages are each in the form of a plurality of

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12 predetermined data fields arranged according to said first
13 communications protocol, wherein the first beacon device adds to
14 each inquiry message prior to transmission an additional data field
15 carrying broadcast message data, and wherein the portable device
16 receives the transmitted inquiry messages and reads the broadcast
17 data from said additional data field.

1 23. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising:
2 a first transmitter configured to broadcast inquiry messages;
3 second transmitter; and
4 a portable device having an identifier and configured to
5 transmit said identifier in response to said inquiry messages;
6 wherein said first transmitter is further configured to
7 transmit said identifier to said second transmitter, and said
8 second transmitter is configured to perform a service interaction
9 in response to said identifier, ~~said service interaction including~~
10 ~~communication setup between said second transmitter and said~~
11 ~~portable device~~ said second transmitter being further configured to
12 remove a portable device identifier from a list of identifiers for

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13 portable devices if a duplicate copy of said portable device
14 identifier is received from said first transmitter.

1 24. (New) A communications system comprising:
2 a first transmitter configured to broadcast inquiry messages;
3 second transmitter; and
4 a portable device having an identifier and configured to
5 transmit said identifier in response to said inquiry messages;
6 wherein said first transmitter is further configured to
7 transmit said identifier to said second transmitter, and said
8 second transmitter is configured to perform a service interaction
9 in response to said identifier, said second transmitter being
10 further configured to remove a portable device identifier from a
11 list of identifiers for portable devices if said service
12 interaction includes receipt of a predetermined message requesting
13 removal of said portable device identifier.

1 25. (New) A communications system comprising:
2 a first transmitter configured to broadcast inquiry messages;
3 second transmitter; and

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4 a portable device having an identifier and configured to
5 transmit said identifier in response to said inquiry messages;
6 wherein said first transmitter is further configured to
7 transmit said identifier to said second transmitter, and said
8 second transmitter is configured to perform a service interaction
9 in response to said identifier, and wherein each inquiry message is
10 in the form of a plurality of data fields, wherein the first
11 transmitter is further arranged to add to said each inquiry message
12 prior to transmission an additional data field, and wherein said
13 portable device is arranged to receive the transmitted inquiry
14 messages and read data from said additional data field.